

5059

20 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Transmittal of <sup>2nd</sup> Second Monthly Report on 1964  
Prospects for Agriculture in Communist  
Countries

The attached papers are the second in the series of monthly reports on the current 1964 outlook for agriculture in Communist countries. They have been prepared in response to a request from the DCI. We have broadened out the coverage to include North Korea and North Vietnam.

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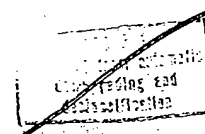
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

Enclosures: (6)  
As stated above.

(S-1194)

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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20 MAR 1964

Prospects for Agriculture in Communist Countries, 1964

1. USSR

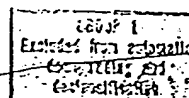
As of mid-March crop prospects in the USSR continued to be somewhat better than at the same time a year ago. Soil moisture conditions are good to excellent in almost all of the most important agricultural areas. In the republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus the sowing of small grains has already started and the supplemental application of fertilizers to winter grains is underway in some areas. Despite below normal precipitation in February, moisture reserves in the New Lands areas of Kazakhstan and Siberia are well above those for 1962 and 1963, and prospects for the 1964 crop appear favorable at this time.

Although a record area of about 45 million hectares (111 million acres) was seeded to winter grain in the fall of 1963 (for harvest in 1964), the extent of the area which suffered from the fall drought and possible winterkill is not known at this time. Three separate reports -- from Odessa, Vinnitsa, and Moldavia -- indicate that extensive reseeded will be required in these southern areas. Heavy snow falls during February in the Central regions have improved conditions for winter crops in those areas, and the Soviets have indicated that the condition of these winter crops is good.

Grain procurement plans for Kazakhstan and the RSFSR and official Soviet statements indicating that the grain area will not be reduced significantly in 1964 suggest that the Soviets are making an all-out effort to recover from the disastrous wheat crop in 1963 and will not implement extensive dryland farming practices in the New Lands in 1964.

Furthermore, a reduction in the 1964 procurement plan for cotton below the level of 1963 suggests that some of the irrigated land which normally would be planted to cotton may be devoted to grain, probably wheat or corn. Additionally, the Soviets have indicated that some of the reseeded required in the winter grain areas will be in spring wheat -- again, an unusual practice. The area to be planted to sugar beets is to be expanded by one-third, in an apparent effort to recover from the very poor sugar beet crop in 1963.

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Current prospects for the production of livestock products are not favorable. Underfulfillment of current procurement plans for milk and eggs and overfulfillment of the meat plan reflect the very tight feed situation. Some reduction in herds, including breeding stock, is still taking place, but future supplies of meat will suffer because of the need to rebuild herds.

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